

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P O Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-021-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

PROJECT NAME: Firewood Sheds at Pumphouse and Radium Recreation Sites

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

T. 1 S., R. 81 W., Section 7, 6th P.M.

T. 1 S., R. 82 W., Section 27, 6th P.M.

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office (KFO)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The KFO is proposing to build two small firewood sheds (one at Pumphouse and one at Radium). Both sheds would be 10'x10'x18' or smaller and would be located near the camp host sites (see maps below). There would be up to 8 posts buried into the ground up to three feet deep.

Firewood sheds need to be built as there has been an increase of trees and bushes cut along the river corridor. By selling firewood, the BLM hopes to reduce resource damage. The sheds would be placed near the camp hosts who would have a key to the sheds. Visitors would have to get fee envelopes from the hosts who would then open the shed to retrieve the firewood. The firewood would be bought and delivered by Hester's Log and Lumber or another commercial operator. If the operator is cutting the wood on public lands, the operator must have a contract with the appropriate land managing agency. Once the proposed Supplemental Rules are in effect, signs would be posted stating that it is illegal to cut and/or collect vegetation or timber for any reason within 600 feet of the river.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) the following plan:

Name of Plan: the Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

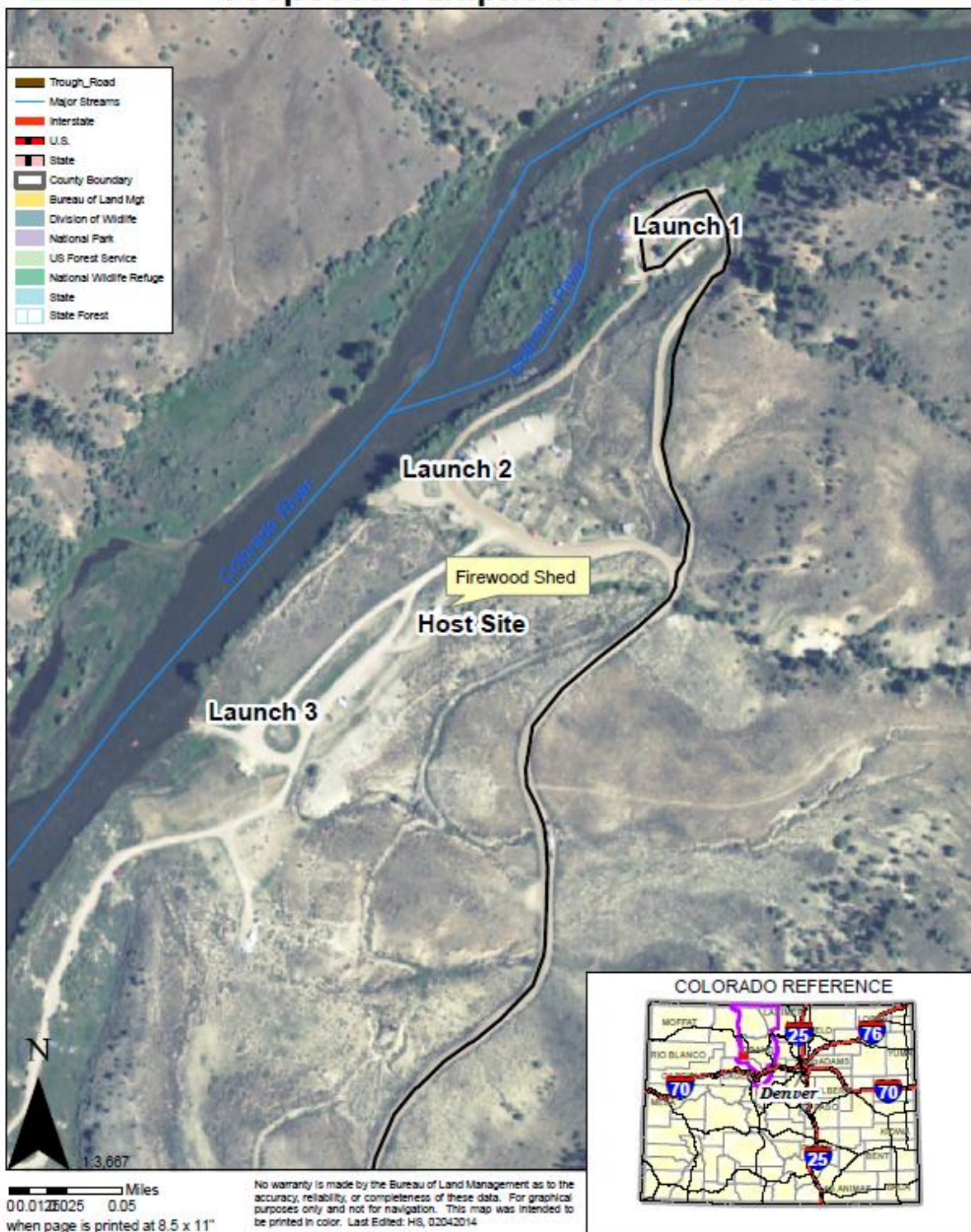
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Decision Language: "Manage and fund the Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area to provide river recreational opportunities and to reduce resource damage, solve visitor health and safety problems and mitigate conflicts."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, G(4): Placement of recreational, special designations, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks and portable sanitation devices.



Proposed Pumphouse Firewood Shed





Proposed Firewood Shed at Radium Rec Site



The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the Kremmling Field Office interdisciplinary team on 04/07/2014. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the Kremmling Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Paleontology	4/22/2014
Darren Long	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Species	4/29/2014

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The project is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected.

Native American Religious Concerns: Tribal consultation was initiated on March 21, 2014, and to date no tribe has identified any area of traditional cultural or spiritual concern.

Paleontology: Geologic formations sensitive for fossil resources are present, but would not be impacted by the proposed project. BLM standard “discovery” stipulation is part of the environmental assessment and is to be attached to any authorization allowing project to proceed.

Special Status Wildlife Species:

Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*): The Radium woodshed location is within a lynx landscape linkage zone that is identified for lynx to be able to travel from one forested habitat to another forested habitat. This project would not impede lynx movement or the ability to use this linkage zone as it is believed that lynx would generally avoid this site and would cause minimal disturbance.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*): Active nesting sites have been identified near the wood shed locations that may be disrupted by the construction of these structures. Nest sites would need to be successfully fledged or failed prior to implementation of the proposed action. Nest status would be confirmed by the KFO wildlife biologists.

Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*): Radio telemetry data shows recent use of the Colorado River corridor over a very limited timeframe. Due to the developed nature of these sites, it is not expected to impact this species due to the unlikely use of this area by grouse.

Special Status Plant Species:

Harrington's Penstomen (*Penstomen harringtonii*): Colonies of this plant and its habitat has been identified near this proposed action. Surveys would be performed at the woodshed construction sites and associated project footprints to identify if individuals would be impacted by the proposed action by the KFO biologist prior to implementation. If individuals are identified within the project's footprint, a suitable site would be identified to avoid impacts to this species.

MITIGATION:

Timing limitations or alternative site locations discussed in specific species descriptions may be identified based on occurrence of special status species.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring would be conducted by the BLM Kremmling Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document would be followed.

NAME OF PREPARER: Hannah Schechter

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, G(4). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Susan Cassel
Associate Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 4/30/14

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P O Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: FIREWOOD SHEDS AT PUMPHOUSE AND RADIUM RECREATION SITES

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-021-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-021 CX, authorizing the construction of two firewood sheds (one at Pumphouse Recreation Site and one at Radium Recreation Site).

Mitigation Measures: Timing limitations or alternative site locations discussed in specific species descriptions may be identified based on occurrence of special status species.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Federal Land Management and Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999 Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The CX will be available for a formal 30-day public comment period when posted on the Kremmling Field Office's internet website.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, G(4). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days

after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215.

The effective date of this decision (and the date initiating the appeal period) will be the date this notice of decision is posted on BLM's Kremmling Field Office internet website.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Susan Cassel
Associate Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 4/30/14